

MAINE STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (SRF)

Fiscal year 1989 marked the beginning of Maine's transition from an EPA Construction Grants Program to project financing by the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). The SRF provides low interest loans to municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations such as sanitary districts for construction of wastewater facilities. The SRF is funded by federal capitalization grants which require state matching funds equal to 20% of the federal grant. State funds come from bond issues approved by the State of Maine. The Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) is the financial manager of Maine's SRF and the DEP Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance (DETA) administers the technical aspects of the program and the individual projects funded by it. The primary purpose of the fund is to, "acquire, design, plan, construct, enlarge, repair or improve publicly-owned sewage systems, sewage treatment plants or to implement related management programs". The long term goal of the SRF is to maintain and improve Maine's inventory of municipal sewage facilities in perpetuity. This will ensure preservation of the water quality gains that were realized by the initial construction of them.

THE DEP MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM

State law gives the DEP flexibility to use grant dollars with other sources of funding to provide an affordable financing package for municipal wastewater facilities. The commissioner is authorized to grant an amount not to exceed 80% of the expense of a municipal or quasi-municipal pollution abatement construction program. State participation is limited to grants for waste treatment facilities, interceptor systems and outfalls. The word "expense" does not include costs relating to land acquisition or debt service, unless allowed under federal statutes and regulations. The commissioner is also authorized to grant an amount equal to at least 15%, but not to exceed 25%, of the expense incurred by a municipality or quasi-municipal corporation in preliminary or final planning of a pollution abatement program.

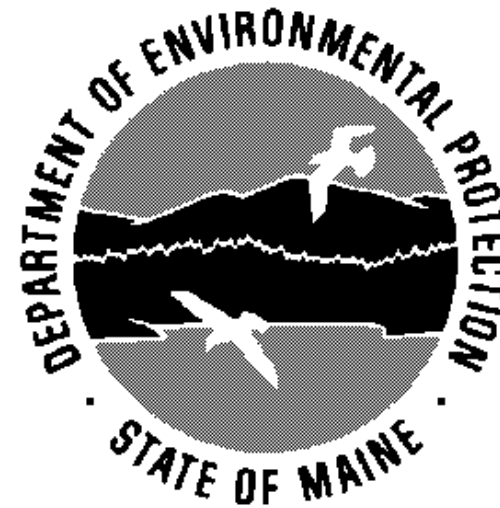
For more information on the SRF and Construction Grants Programs please contact:

William Brown, P.E.
Division of Engineering & Technical Assistance
(207)-287-7804

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**Dennis Purington, P.E.
Director**

**Providing Funding & Technical
Assistance for Water
Pollution Abatement**



BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

DEP RESPONSE BUILDING
STATE HOUSE STATION #17
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207)-287-7800

INTRODUCTION

The **Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance (DETA)** has two major purposes: (1) to administer grant and loan programs for the construction of wastewater treatment and collection facilities, and (2) to provide technical assistance to industries and municipalities in the areas of pollution prevention and facility operations and management. By the implementation of our division programs we can achieve our goal of protecting and improving the water quality of the State of Maine.

There are seven major programs within DETA: the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and Municipal Construction Grants Programs which provide low interest loans and state grants to municipalities for the planning, design and construction of new wastewater treatment facilities and sewers or the upgrade of existing systems; the Small Community Grant (SCG) and Overboard Discharge Grant (OBD) Programs which both provide state grants to towns for the construction of individual septic systems to eliminate direct discharges to the waters of our state; the Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Grant Program (CSO) which provides grants to municipalities for CSO Facilities Plans which look into long-term solutions to their CSO problems; and the Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance Programs in which division personnel work together with industries and municipalities to help reduce pollution at its source and provide operational guidance and assistance. The following pages describe each of these DETA programs in more detail and who to contact for more information.

SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Department of Environmental Protection's Small Community Grant Program can provide state grants for pollution control projects costing \$100,000 or less. The program is suitable for pollution control projects constructed in rural areas of the state. Grants awarded to towns can be used to fund the cost of replacing privately owned sewerage systems if pollution to waterbodies or shellfishing areas is abated or if public health problems are being solved. The intent of the program is to eliminate pollution sources. Only projects which remove a wastewater discharge are eligible for a grant.

This grant program was created by the legislature under 38 M.R.S.A. Section 411. It is administered by the Land and Water Bureau's Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance. The State share of funding for projects in this grant program comes from bond issues approved by the voters of the State of Maine.

Individual families may qualify for the grant program if their federal taxable income for the previous year was \$40,000 or less. Commercial establishments may qualify if their gross profit for the previous year was \$40,000 or less. Potential applicants are not eligible for grant assistance if their income exceeds these figures. Applicants are required to show proof that they meet the income limit. A sliding-scale grant percentage applies depending on the amount of income or profit. Participants in the program are also required to grant an easement to the town allowing construction and inspection of the system.

Grants may be used to pay up to 100% of the costs of systems constructed for year round homes (if taxable income is less than \$5,000), 50% of the cost for commercial establishments or non-profit organizations, and 25% of the cost for seasonal residences. The grant will not pay for excessive site work or work not required to eliminate the pollution source.

Grants are available to municipalities, quasi-municipal corporations such as sanitary districts, or to county commissioners representing unorganized towns. Grants can't be awarded directly to individual property owners.

For additional information please contact:

Richard A. Green, P.E., Administrator
Small Community Grant Program
(207)-287-7765

OVERBOARD DISCHARGE GRANT PROGRAM

Licensed overboard discharges are treated discharges, to surface bodies of water, of domestic pollutants not conveyed to a municipal or quasi-municipal wastewater treatment facility. The Maine Overboard Discharge Program was initiated by the Legislature (38 M.R.S.A., Section 411-A) to help fund replacement systems that would eliminate these licensed overboard discharges in certain areas. High priority is given to shellfish areas that could be opened for harvesting if the licensed overboard discharges were eliminated. High priority is also given to great ponds and small rivers and streams with drainage areas of less than 10 square miles where the licensed overboard discharge creates a public nuisance condition.

The State share of funding for projects in this grant program comes from bond issues approved by the voters of the State of Maine. The Program Administrator develops a priority list based on information from the Department of Marine Resources, DEP staff, local officials, shellfish committees, and other interest groups.

Municipalities, Quasi-Municipal Corporations, County Commissioners and Individual Persons may be eligible to receive grant funds to eliminate overboard discharges. Municipal officials may act as the Applicant for the grant funds for all the licensed discharges scheduled to be eliminated within their jurisdiction. Individual owners of licensed overboard discharges scheduled to be removed can also act as the Applicant for grant funds.

Owners of existing licensed overboard discharges in high priority areas will be notified by the DEP that they are eligible for grant funds to replace their existing system with a subsurface system in compliance with the Maine State Plumbing Code or to connect to a public sewer system. A year-round residential overboard discharge will receive a grant of 90% of the project costs, a commercial overboard discharge will receive a grant of 50%, and a seasonal residential overboard discharge will receive a grant for 25% of the project costs. Project costs include engineering and construction costs.

For additional information please contact:

David P. Achorn, P.E., Administrator
Overboard Discharge Grant Program
(207)-287-7766

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW ABATEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) occur during storm events when a mixture of wastewater and stormwater runoff overflows the combined sewer collection system before receiving treatment at a licensed wastewater treatment facility. These discharges of diluted untreated wastewater violate both State and Federal water pollution laws. Municipalities are required to license their CSOs with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. License requirements direct municipalities to evaluate their CSO problems and determine cost effective solutions to abate them, through the development of CSO Facilities Plans, also referred to as Master Plans or Long-Term Control Plans.

In 1990, voters approved a state bond issue for \$2.4 million to be used for funding CSO Facilities Plans. Grants are awarded for 25% of the eligible costs.

Requests for CSO Planning Grants should include the following information:

- 1) If an engineering consultant is to be used, an engineering contract based on a Department approved scope of work for the CSO Facilities Plan.
- 2) If municipal staff will be involved in activities such as sampling and testing, an estimate of costs for staff time.
- 3) Costs for equipment needed for the study, such as flow meters, samplers, rain gages, or data retrieval hardware.

Design and construction costs associated with CSO remediation may be funded by the State Revolving Fund or, depending on municipal financial capability and grant availability, State grant.

Technical assistance and guidance on CSO Facilities Plans and abatement are provided to municipalities from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance.

For additional information, please contact:

Stephen McLaughlin, P.E., Administrator
Combined Sewer Overflow Grant Program
(207) 287-7768

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION Technical Assistance to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) Municipal and Industrial Water Pollution Prevention

In 1982, under Section 104(G) of the Clean Water Act, the Maine DEP initiated a program to address non-compliance problems at small wastewater treatment facilities. The goal of the program is to optimize the performance of municipal treatment facilities. DEP staff members provide on-site technical assistance to identify design, administrative, maintenance, and operational performance-limiting factors and work with the operators to find suitable solutions to those problems.

In 1991, Maine started a technical assistance program for industrial water pollution prevention. The goal of the program is to promote pollution prevention by industrial facilities. DEP staff members provide on-site technical assistance. Technical assistance consists of establishing industrial pollution prevention teams, facilitating technology transfer and providing measurement of success. Pollution prevention teams conduct site assessments, analyze problems and implement feasible solutions.

In 1994 Maine initiated the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention program (MWPP) - a team effort on the part of DEP, EPA, and the participating municipalities. The heart of the program is the annual self-assessment, developed to evaluate both the physical and financial conditions of the wastewater treatment facility and its ability to maintain or achieve compliance.

The person responsible for the operation of the WWTF completes the self-assessment and this information is passed on to the elected municipal officials responsible for the fiscal oversight of the facility. This approach provides a valuable management tool that is designed to help WWTF operators diagnose emerging problems, prevent potential problems, and identify and request needed resources.

In addition, municipalities have begun to see the benefits of pollution prevention through an outreach program designed to get local officials and the general public involved. This program has a watershed approach, builds local "teams", and focuses on water quality improvements.

For additional information please contact:

Don Albert, P.E., Administrator
Pollution Prevention Program
(207)-287-7767